

Opening Session

Greeting speeches



From left to right: Martin Albrow, Charles Grant, Timothy Clement-Jones, Xiang Xiaowei, Hugo de Burgh.

Chair: Professor Hugo de Burgh, Director, China Media Centre, University of Westminster

Opening remarks



Professor Hugo de Burgh: Hello, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and welcome to this extraordinary and very interesting two-day event, organized by China in Comparative Perspective Global Network, the China Media Centre, Fudan University Institute of Development and the Young Entrepreneur Society. We have a very full programme, which includes many interesting speakers. We're also going to be launching the *Journal of China in Comparative Perspective* and two book series. We have a great deal to hear this morning, so we are going to be quite rapid and disciplined with our speakers.

First of all, we have four speakers who are going to make the opening remarks, then we're going to ask everybody to come round and join us behind the platform for a photograph. Afterwards we will carry on with the greetings. So, welcome, everybody, and, first, it is my great pleasure to welcome, from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Minister Counsellor of Cultural Affairs Mr Xiang Xiaowei.



Mr XIANG Xiaowei: Good morning, Mr Chairman, professors, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the 2nd Global China Dialogue, entitled Transculturality and Global Governance, a special event of the 2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in the UK, I would like to extend my warm congratulations on the opening of the forum. I am also delighted to meet our friends, especially Professor Martin Albrow, who has always engaged in and supported this event. 2015 has been an exceptionally important year in the bilateral relations between China and the UK, featuring some very important events. Let me just briefly mention some of them.

The state visit by President Xi Jinping, at the invitation of HM Queen Elizabeth II this autumn, has achieved fruitful outcomes. During his visit, both China and the UK

agreed on forging a global comprehensive strategic partnership facing the 21st century. We are looking forward to the coming of a golden era in relations between China and the UK and to much more sustainable, substantial and productive bilateral relations.

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the China–UK High-Level People-to-People Dialogue took place in London in September. The Dialogue focused on further strengthening and making substantial improvements in our relations in humanities, science and technology, education and culture, all of which has furthered our relations to a much deeper level in this area.

I should also mention the third major event of the year, the Year of Cultural Exchange between China and the UK. For the first time, both the Chinese and the UK governments agreed that we should appoint 2015 as the year of cultural exchange, demonstrating our commitment to further understanding, friendship and trust, through exchange of ideas, artistic activities and personnel. This annual event consisted of both the British season in China in the first half of the year, and the China season in the UK in the second half. Both sides are very much focused on strengthening our collaboration and in-depth exchange in the area of creativity, fashion, arts, human resources, science and technology, social sciences and, most important of all, in academia.

This forum, as one of the main components in the field of academia and exchange of thoughts, will approach the most concerning world issues from a global perspective. We are overwhelmed and inspired by our speakers' ideas on the subject of transculturality and global governance, and are quite optimistic that we can achieve the objectives to nurture the exchange of ideas and the network of scholars and bring forth new initiatives among think tanks.

On the new concept of global governance, questions have been asked and need answers, especially now at this very difficult moment in Europe. The refugee crisis in Europe, the wars in the Middle East and the issues of development in the Far East, in the East, the south-east of Asia and the other countries have all come to a point when the scholars in international politics, international relations, globalization and cross-cultural studies are compelled to seek joint efforts and new thinking for solutions. The fundamental questions we need to ask and work out nowadays are: How can we work together and construct the global linear structure and our economic development model? What are our chances for peace and development in the current mindset? Should we all put development over conflict? Or is there a universal and best choice or way of development that can suit each and every country? Is there any universal model for governance? These questions are fundamental. I believe our scholars and guests here today share our interest and very much look forward to answers, good ideas and insights from our speakers at this forum.

Finally, allow me to also extend my sincere thanks to Professor Chang and her organization for overseeing this event. We shall stand firm, and would like to see a continuation of this forum in the year 2016. Thank you so much.

(applause)

de Burgh: Thank you, Mr Xiang, for placing in context the 2nd Global China Dialogue. And now, Lord Clement-Jones from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on China.



Lord Timothy Clement-Jones: Thanks to the chair, Professor de Burgh, Minister Counsellor Xiang, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to follow the minister counsellor in helping open this dialogue, and the timing quite frankly couldn't be better, since, as President Xi Jinping and our prime minister agreed, and as the minister counsellor has just emphasized, we are in a golden era of Chinese–British relations. I've just come back from the 8th UK–China Leadership Forum, and although I've been a regular visitor to China over the last ten years, I can say that was the best forum ever, because of the preceding successful, very successful presidential visit. Under the auspices of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on China, I, along with a group of UK

parliamentarians, discussed with Chinese counterparts in the international department many of the subjects which you will also be talking about over the next few days, and the range of subjects on which we

are now engaging is quite extraordinary – a massive, diverse range of subjects – but the emphasis throughout it has been very practical, in terms of what kind of cooperation and dialogue between us will be, in the phrase that is so often used, a win-win result. Now, this result comes out of the UK-China joint statement following the president's visit, and in the policy outcomes of the economic and financial dialogue that took place in September, and I would say we have a pretty clear roadmap in many aspects of that Sino-British relationship.

Let me just pick out a few areas, because I think that with such a vast agenda we need to really pick out our own personal priorities. I welcome very much the emphasis on the rule of law, and I know this is something very close to Hugo's area, in terms of the work that he's been doing over the years and in particular with regard to the angle of underpinning economic prosperity, and I hope that the Great Britain China Centre will very shortly be engaged in the project to assist with the judicial record process, particularly in areas such as using case law precedent. That would be, in my opinion, genuinely transcultural, to use a phrase which I know is going to be very much the hallmark of this dialogue. Of course, there are many values in global governance, within the global governance agenda, which are shared by China and Britain, in re-establishing confidence in the world economy and world security, particularly the importance of free trade and I hope also the need to address income inequalities. All of this impacts on the shape that is needed for the UN, WTO, IMF and the World Bank to go forward, and we all look forward to China's forthcoming chairmanship of the G20.

The agenda is extraordinarily wide in terms of global governance. I was particularly personally interested, as a trustee of a conservation charity, to see the president discuss action on ivory sales and ivory poaching, because that, to me, seems to be something of huge importance and that we can help resolve together as far as Africa is concerned. The other vital areas of transcultural collaboration include the whole area of intellectual property protection through copyright enforcement, and it isn't just about how the court system works in terms of enforcement; it's also about the idea of how we should educate people on the value of copyright and of content and creativity. I wrote to the British Council, which works in this area, saying I believe that there is a collaborative agenda potentially with the Confucius Institutes, which could be followed in the whole area of organization of sustainable cities; this is a very common agenda item, particularly with the power agenda and with the whole 13th Five Year Plan now being adopted after the Fifth Plenum.

So this is a very good agenda, a huge agenda, and as China moves towards a consumer-driven economy, it is vital to lower the savings ratio and build confidence within the social and health care support system, particularly for old people. There is an area for collaboration of great importance there. The joint statement after the president's visit stressed the importance of people-to-people exchanges in the whole area of education, which it said was absolutely vital. Chinese student alumni are growing an important source of soft power for the UK, but they are a cultural bridge for us as well. We need to ensure that our strong international links with China and with Chinese students, postgraduates, thrive. I would like to see a return of the postgraduates coming to work, with a new visa, because I believe that is a very important way of ensuring that our students are able to taste what it's like working within the British context and build the skills that they need before returning to China to engage in the employment market. It is not just about Chinese students being here. We must generate more of a two-way flow into China, and encourage more British students to study there in China to improve their Mandarin skills. But for me, at the end of the day, as a creative industry spokesman, one of the most exciting collaborations – and it's very good – and we have the cultural attachés here, and the minister counsellor is here – is about the relationship between China and the UK in the tech and creative industries to generate greater opportunities each year. The president saw for himself a creative industry event at Lancaster House celebrating cultural collaboration between China and Britain. As the minister counsellor said, this is the year of cultural exchange between Britain and China, so when you look you will see the collaboration in which the Victoria and Albert Museum has taken part in planning the infrastructure of a new design museum in Shenzhen, in China, and, in entertainment, planned theme parks across China in a joint venture with China Media Capital; then we have a film co-production treaty, which will give Chinese productions access to UK film tax relief and the BFI Film Fund. So there are cultural aspects directly relating to the climate agenda, which I hope you will be discussing a lot over the next few days; this could all lead really to some very, very exciting trans-

cultural partnerships. Exciting times, I believe, lie ahead, and I hope you will have a very stimulating and productive dialogue over the next two days. Thank you.

(applause)

de Burgh: Thank you very much, Lord Clement-Jones. And now we have Charles Grant, who is very well known in the British public sphere and policy world for talking about Europe, but he is also a trustee of Global China Institute. Welcome, Mr Grant.



Mr Charles Grant: Thank you very much. I would like to say a few words about the European Union's relationship with China, what it means for global governance and also the prospect of Britain leaving the EU, what it means for the EU relationship with China. Firstly, EU-China relations are in a pretty good state at the moment; there is progress being made in the negotiations of a bilateral investment treaty to make it easier for European companies to invest in China and vice versa. The EU remains China's number one trading partner. China is very supportive of the Eurozone in its difficulties, and I welcome the collaborations between the EU and China on climate change talks

that are going to take place in Paris in a few weeks' time, and also the One Belt, One Road strategy of China moving westwards along the old Silk Road on land and also on the sea. That certainly has a lot of support in Europe, a lot of interest in Europe, this idea of how EU companies can benefit from working with China. On the policy level, they worked together on the Iran nuclear dossier. Iran has agreed to constrain and limit its nuclear programme and China had a very constructive role there. And on global governance itself, the European Union's view is that China is playing an increasingly important role in the United Nations, giving more money to its budget, providing peacekeepers in many parts of the world, providing an anti-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia. That is all very encouraging.

There are of course tensions and I've just spent the last week in Washington talking to people in the administration there about how they view China, and talking to some European diplomats about this as well. The South China Sea, as the minister counsellor mentioned, is a future area of possible tensions between Europe and China. At the moment, the EU is remaining studiously neutral, not taking any sides, not wanting to be involved, but I think that the EU's view now is, if China becomes more assertive in the South China Sea, it will be difficult for the EU to remain neutral in some of the disputes there.

Now, if Britain leaves the EU, I think it may have quite a big impact on the EU-China relationship, because Britain is the world's fifth largest economy. It's particularly influential in contributing to EU economic policy. Let's just think for a moment about what will happen to the EU if Britain leaves in the referendum to be held before the end of 2017, probably next year. One thing is, probably the EU would be much less able to develop common foreign and defence policies that are substantive, because the British are, with the French, the major contributors to EU defence policy, and also with the French are probably the most important element of shaping EU foreign policy, as we have seen on the Iran negotiation, where the British, the French and the Germans were in the lead. The British people within the EU are always saying, keep your markets open, build a single market, deepen the single market, negotiate more trade agreements with other parts of the world; and on my own visits to Beijing I have certainly heard Chinese officials express worries that without the British the EU could become more protectionist, less willing to open its market, less willing to negotiate trade agreements with China.

Then there is the area of justice and home affairs, interior ministry cooperation, which is very important: as we have seen after the Paris attacks ten days ago, the British play a leading role in counter-terrorism cooperation within the EU. If we move out of the EU, that cooperation would be seriously damaged. Then the transatlantic relationships, of course, would suffer if Britain left the EU. The British are quite good at explaining how the EU works to the Americans and explaining how America works to the Europeans. Finally, there is the issue of Germany's power in the EU. Germany has now become pretty preponderant in the EU and how the EU works, for a number of reasons. Given the strength of the German economy, the weakness of the European Commission, if Britain were to leave the EU, German power would be even more dominant, and this is probably not good for Germany and not good for the EU